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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. K. Randel Everett of the John Leland Center for Theological Studies in Arlington, VA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

May we pray.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all of the earth. When we consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, who are we that You would give thought of us. Yet You have made us a little lower than God and crowned us with glory and majesty.—Psalm 8

Please open our eyes to Your many expressions of beauty in the brilliance of the azaleas, in the warmth of the sunshine and in the gentleness of a friend.

Please open our ears to the sounds of joy in the laughter of little children and in the singing of birds. Speak through us as we seek to encourage someone who is hurting and reach out to someone who is afraid.

Gracious Lord, this day is a gift You have given to us. Don't let us miss out on what You are doing. Let us live in the fullness of Your mercy. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 12 noon. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the NATO expansion treaty. This treaty is a necessary step to include seven new member countries in the NATO alliance.

Under the previous order, the Senate will debate the treaty and dispose of all amendments during today's session. I advise my colleagues that rollcall votes are possible with respect to the two amendments to the resolution of ratification. Once those amendments are disposed of during today's session, the Senate will set aside the treaty, so the Senate will vote on the adoption of the resolution of ratification at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

As a reminder, cloture motions were filed on the nominations of both Priscilla Owen and Miguel Estrada. This will be the second attempt to end the filibuster on the Owen nomination and our sixth effort with respect to Miguel Estrada. The cloture votes on Owen and Estrada will occur during Thursday's session.

In addition, I want to inform all Members that negotiations are ongoing to continue to clear several important pieces of legislation for floor action. These items include the State Department authorization bill, the bioshield bill, air cargo security legislation, the FAA reauthorization bill, the FISA legislation, and a number of pending nominations. Therefore, Members should anticipate additional votes throughout the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the distinguished majority leader is in the Chamber, I wonder if he has any idea how much time he wants for the debate on the two cloture motions tomorrow or are we just going to vote on them?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have not talked to our caucus about that, but I

will get back to Senator REID shortly so we can plan out the day tomorrow.

Mr. REID. The other question I have is, we have people ready to offer amendments on the energy bill. Is the majority leader still planning on spending some time on that bill tomorrow?

Mr. FRIST. The plan is to be on the energy bill and continue the debate and start the amendment process tomorrow, Thursday. The plan is to hopefully start that—although I am not sure—in the morning after we finish the vote.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I had 10 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that my time be extended to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX CUTS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is fortuitous that the distinguished Presiding Officer is the forerunner of the position: If we are going to cut taxes only \$350 billion, you are going to lose his vote. The debate has ensued from \$756 billion to \$350 billion to try to make for a compromise of \$550 billion in tax cuts. But the most responsible voices say at this particular time: No tax cuts.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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